

**SANITIZED**

ARMY review  
completed.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

**COPY**

**FOLLOWS**

**Page Denied**

**Page Denied**

**Page Denied**

**Page Denied**

TS-HK-445304

(Translation)

Peking, January 6, 1973

Mr. President,

I have received your letter of January 3, 1973.

Chairman Mao has read the letter and also takes satisfaction in bilateral developments since last February.

We appreciate Mr. President's wish for continued improvement in Sino-U.S. relations as was expressed in the letter. The Chinese side believes that the normalization of relations between China and the United States step by step in accordance with the principles of the Shanghai Communique is not only in the interest of the Chinese and American peoples, but will also contribute to the easing of tension in Asia and the world. However, Mr. President, we would not be frank if we did not point out at the same time that the continuation of the Viet Nam war, particularly such bombings as recently carried out by the United States against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, are bound to affect the progress of Sino-U.S. relations. We believe, as Mr. President correctly mentioned in the letter, it is in the interest of us all to bring the Viet Nam war to a rapid conclusion and thus remove the major obstacle to many constructive developments in international relations.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

- 2 -

As the Chinese saying goes, one should not lose the major for the sake of the minor, and I think it would be of significance to reflect upon these words again at this important juncture. We hope in this round of private meetings between Viet Nam and the United States, interferences can be overcome and an agreement to end the Viet Nam war finally concluded through serious reciprocal negotiations and joint efforts.

It is understandable that Dr. Kissinger's planned visit to Peking cannot materialize as originally envisaged. You are welcome to send Dr. Kissinger to Peking for a meeting at an appropriate time after the negotiated settlement of the Viet Nam war.

With regard to the series of international issues and questions concerning the development of Sino-U.S. bilateral relations as referred to in the letter, we prepare to have a direct and thorough exchange of views with Dr. Kissinger during his visit to Peking.

My wife and I thank you and Mrs. Nixon for your good wishes and extend our regards to you.

Chou En-lai

At about 2020 hours on December 23, 1972, while carrying out wanton bombings of the DRV's Lang Son area, which adjoins Chinese borders, U.S. military aircraft went to the extent of firing a missile into the area of Tunghsing County, Kwangsi Province, China. The point of impact was at 21°39'15" N, 107°29'25" E. On the splinters are markings showing that the missile was made in the U.S.A. The Chinese side hereby lodges a strong protest with the U.S. side against this and demands that it take effective measures to ensure against the recurrence of similar incidents.



DECLASSIFIED

Authority EO 12958  
By RT NARA Date 7-5-87

*The President has seen per RTH 1/8/73*  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET

January 8, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RICHARD T. KENNEDY

Attached for your information is a letter from Prime Minister Chou En-Lai in response to your letter of January 3, 1973.

Authority EO 12958  
By R.I. NARA Date 7-5-07

TOP SECRET/EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

PEKING, January 6, 1973

Mr. President,

I have received your letter of January 3, 1973.

Chairman Mao has read the letter and also takes satisfaction in bilateral developments since last February.

We appreciate Mr. President's wish for continued improvement in Sino-U.S. relations as was expressed in the letter. The Chinese side believes that the normalization of relations between China and the United States step by step in accordance with the principles of the Shanghai communique is not only in the interest of the Chinese and American peoples, but will also contribute to the easing of tension in Asia and the world. However, Mr. President, we would not be frank if we did not point out at the same time that the continuation of the Viet Nam war, particularly such bombings as recently carried out by the United States against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, are bound to affect the progress of Sino-U.S. relations. We believe, as Mr. President correctly mentioned in the letter, it is in the interest of us all to bring the Viet Nam war to a rapid conclusion and thus remove the major obstacle to many constructive developments in international relations. As the Chinese saying goes, one should not lose the major for the sake of the minor, and I think it would be of significance to reflect upon these words again at this important juncture. We hope in this round of private meetings between Viet Nam and the United States, interferences can be overcome and an agreement to end the Viet Nam war finally concluded through serious reciprocal negotiations and joint efforts.

It is understandable that Dr. Kissinger's planned visit to Peking cannot materialize as originally envisaged. You are welcome to send Dr. Kissinger to Peking for a meeting at an appropriate time after the negotiated settlement of the Viet Nam war.

With regard to the series of international issues and questions concerning the development of Sino-U.S. bilateral relations as referred to in the letter, we prepare to have a direct and thorough exchange of views with Dr. Kissinger during his visit to Peking.

My wife and I thank you and Mrs. Nixon for your good wishes and extend our regards to you.

Chou En-Lai

TOP SECRET/EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

Authority EO 1.70  
By RT NARA Date 7507

*China  
exchange*

070745Z JAN 73

**T O P S E C R E T EXCLUSIVE EYES ONLY CITE NEW YORK 0010**

**TO : DR. KISSINGER  
FROM: HOOD**

**THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE WAS PICKED UP AT 0200 HOURS 7 JANUARY 1973.**

**QUOTE**

**(TRANSLATION)**

**PEKING, JANUARY 6, 1973**

**MR. PRESIDENT,**

**I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR LETTER OF JANUARY 3, 1973.**

**CHAIRMAN MAO HAS READ THE LETTER AND ALSO TAKES  
SATISFACTION IN BILATERAL DEVELOPMENTS SINCE LAST FEBRUARY.**

**WE APPRECIATE MR. PRESIDENT'S WISH FOR CONTINUED  
IMPROVEMENT IN SINO-U.S. RELATIONS AS WAS EXPRESSED IN  
THE LETTER. THE CHINESE SIDE BELIEVES THAT THE NORMALIZATION  
OF RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES STEP BY  
STEP IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE SHANGHAI  
COMMUNIQUE IS NOT ONLY IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHINESE AND  
AMERICAN PEOPLES, BUT WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EASING  
OF TENSION IN ASIA AND THE WORLD. HOWEVER, MR. PRESIDENT,  
WE WOULD NOT BE FRANK IF WE DID NOT POINT OUT AT THE SAME  
TIME THAT THE CONTINUATION OF THE VIET NAM WAR, PARTICULARLY  
SUCH BOMBINGS AS RECENTLY CARRIED OUT BY THE UNITED STATES  
AGAINST THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM, ARE BOUND TO  
AFFECT THE PROGRESS OF SINO-U.S. RELATIONS. WE BELIEVE,  
AS MR. PRESIDENT CORRECTLY MENTIONED IN THE LETTER, IT  
IS IN THE INTEREST OF US ALL TO BRING THE VIET NAM WAR TO  
A RAPID CONCLUSION AND THUS REMOVE THE MAJOR OBSTACLE TO  
MANY CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.**

Authority EO 12170  
By RT NARA Date 7507

- 2 -

AS THE CHINESE SAYING GOES, ONE SHOULD NOT LOSE THE MAJOR FOR THE SAKE OF THE MINOR, AND I THINK IT WOULD BE OF SIGNIFICANCE TO REFLECT UPON THESE WORDS AGAIN AT THIS IMPORTANT JUNCTURE. WE HOPE IN THIS ROUND OF PRIVATE MEETINGS BETWEEN VIET NAM AND THE UNITED STATES, INTERFERENCES CAN BE OVERCOME AND AN AGREEMENT TO END THE VIET NAM WAR FINALLY CONCLUDED THROUGH SERIOUS RECIPROCAL NEGOTIATIONS AND JOINT EFFORTS.

IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT DR. KISSINGER'S PLANNED VISIT TO PEKING CANNOT MATERIALIZE AS ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED. YOU ARE WELCOME TO SEND DR. KISSINGER TO PEKING FOR A MEETING AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME AFTER THE NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE VIET NAM WAR.

WITH REGARD TO THE SERIES OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SINO-U.S. BILATERAL RELATIONS AS REFERRED TO IN THE LETTER, WE PREPARE TO HAVE A DIRECT AND THOROUGH EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH DR. KISSINGER DURING HIS VISIT TO PEKING.

MY WIFE AND I THANK YOU AND MRS. NIXON FOR YOUR GOOD WISHES AND EXTEND OUR REGARDS TO YOU.

CHOU EN-LAI

UNQUOTE

END OF MESSAGE